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NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Norham and Islandshires

Rural District

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1940.

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Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Norham and Islandshires Rural District

For the Year ended 31st December, 1940.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1940.

General Statistics.

Area—The area of the District is 47,011 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population—4,565.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books—1449.
Rateable Value—£18,136.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£81.

Social Conditions.

These are the same as in previous years. Apart from agriculture, the only industries are salmon fishing and coal mining, and in both there has been full employment. In spite of war conditions there has also been a good quota of summer visitors in the area.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Male.	Female.	
Live Births	Legitimate	71	26	45	Birth Rate per 1000 population—16.2
	Illegitimate	3	3	0	
Still Births	...	1	1	0	Rate per 1000 births —13.3
Deaths...	...	60	31	29	Rate per 1000 population—13.14

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—Nil.

Deaths from other Puerperal Causes—Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year—

All infants, per 1000 live births	13.5
Legitimate infants, per 1000 legitimate live births	13.5
Illegitimate infants, per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
,, Measles	Nil
,, Whooping Cough	Nil
,, Diarrhœa	Nil

Live births show an increase of 23 on 1939 figures, and the number of deaths remains the same.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Medical Officer of Health (part time)—

Herbert F. Park, M.B., CH.B., Norham.

Sanitary Inspector—J. Romans Lake, East Ord.

Vaccination Officers—

Norhamshire—H. F. Park, M.B.,CH.B.

Islandshire—J. Elliott, L.R.C.S.E., Lowick.

Laboratory Facilities.—County Laboratory, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities.—By arrangement with Berwick Town Council, a modern ambulance can be provided for all accidents or infectious diseases in the area.

Nursing Services.—The district is served by the nurses of the Northumberland County Nursing Association.

Hospitals.—There is no change in hospital accommodation. Infectious cases are taken to the Berwick Isolation Hospital. The R.D.C.'s fever hospital has not been in use during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—There has been no extension of any of the water supplies during the year. The existing arrangements have been very satisfactory throughout the year.

Drainage and Sewage.—There have been no alterations in these systems during the year.

Rivers and Streams.—There is no gross pollution.

Closet Accommodation.—Many dry closets are in use in the district, but conversions are continually being made.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year :

Disease.	Total Cases. notified.	Cases admitted. to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever... ...	5	3	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	22	12	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...
Measles	109	...	...
Erysipelas	1	1	...

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES. Resp. M	Resp. F	Non-Resp, M	Non-Resp, F	DEATHS. Resp. M	Resp. F	Non-Resp. M	Non-Resp. F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Measles was previously not notifiable, and hence there are no figures for the previous year.

Paratyphoid.—This outbreak in the district extended also to the neighbouring borough. The illness was mild, and no specific source was discovered.

Apart from these, the incidence of infectious diseases was very slight.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Herbert T. Park.
M.O.H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR, for the Year 1940.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1940.

Visits of inspection have been made throughout the District during the year. No statutory notices have been served. Informal notices have been issued and verbal instructions given to agents and responsible persons, and these notices and instructions have been well attended to.

Conditions of Dwellinghouses.—The defects in the older types of houses are dampness, insufficient light, want of ventilation, and the absence of proper food stores, and, in some cases, general dilapidations.

Owing to the war and the absorption of labour and the diversion of materials for national purposes, only a minimum of structural and repair work to property has been carried out during the year.

War Damage.—A small amount of war damage was caused to the the roofs of two dwellinghouses in Norham through the trailing of a cable which was attached to a barage balloon which passed over Norham. The repairs to these roofs were immediately undertaken and carried out.

Plans.—Plans for the improvement of various properties have been submitted to and approved by the Council. These include the following :—

New septic Tank system and additional bedroom at Horncliffe House.
Improvements to Horncliffe Lodge.
New earth closets at Norham East Mains.
Earth closets at East Newbigging.
Alterations and improvements to Keeper's Lodge, Greenlawalls.
Improvements to cottage at Holy Island.
Cycle shed at Norham.
Five earth closets converted to water closets at Norham.
Alterations to cottage at Velvet Hall.

Two certificates of completion of houses have been granted during the year ; one to Mr. T. Hall in the parish of Ord, and one to Mr. R. Simpson in the parish of Ancroft.

Water Supplies.—The water supplies in the district have been satisfactory during the year. There has been no actual scarcity, but in some parts of the district, where the military have been stationed in considerable numbers, moderate supplies were somewhat overtaxed. This was helped, however, by the use of tank wagons by the military. The supplies in the district are as follows :—

Fenwick.—This village is supplied by gravitation from a spring which rises in Kyloe Woods. This supply is owned by the local authority.

East Ord.—This is a gravitation water supply unde the ownership of the local authority.

Cornhill.—The water supply to Cornhill village and the surroundings is pumped from a spring, and gravitates from a reservoir in a 2in. water main. The water is of good quality and ample quantity. This system is privately owned.

Norham, Horncliffe, Thornton, and Shoreswood.—This is a gravitation water supply, and during the year the supply has been well maintained, and is of good quality and ample quantity. It is owned by the local authority.

Chlorination. — The chlorination of water supplies has been under the consideration of the Council, but in none of the systems operating was it necessary to take any action, as the number of users did not warrant it.

Rivers and Streams.—There are no public works in the area, and consequently no river pollution from these sources.

Sewerage and Drainage.—No main sewers have been laid during the year, but several drainage schemes in connection with alterations and improvements to property have been carried out.

Schools.—The Hampshire privy system is prevalent in nearly all the schools in the area. Water is laid on where gravitation supplies are available.

Disinfection.—All premises where infectious diseases occurred have been thoroughly disinfected, also all schools in the affected areas. In connection with the outbreak of paratyphoid during the year, particular attention has been paid to disinfection of all infected premises and their surroundings.

Dairies and Cowsheds (Milk Supply).—During the year dairies and cowsheds have been inspected. The cleanliness of these has been well observed, also flushing and whitewashing.

Factories and Workshops.—These number 34, and have all been well kept.

Camping Sites.—There were two camping sites in the district. Since the start of hostilities these have been abandoned, and are not now used as such.

Disinfestation.—There was no occasion to disinfestate for the eradication of bed bugs.

Slaughterhouses.—The two slaughterhouses in the district are not now used as such. Meat supplies are sent from headquarters.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. Romans Cathe,

Sanitary Inspector.

East Ord,
Berwick-on-Tweed,
August, 1941,